

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CARLOS ELIAS

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Carlos Elias on his retirement after 36 years of service to the federal government, 17 years of which were with the Architect of the Capitol.

Carlos started his federal career in 1980 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from the University of Puerto Rico. Carlos joined the Architect of the Capitol in 1999 as the Deputy Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Building, and in 2001 was appointed to the position of Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Building and the Capitol Visitor Center.

As Superintendent, Mr. Elias oversees 1.5 million gross square feet and manages 250 employees. In addition to maintenance functions, he is responsible for repairs, modernization, improvements, conservation, preservation, and new construction activities.

He also served as lead coordinator for the last four Presidential Inaugurations and he is responsible for the construction of the Inaugural platform, installation of the sound system, security fencing, and all other supporting infrastructure.

Mr. Elias is overseeing the \$60 million U.S. Dome Restoration Project, the first since 1959. Due to age and weather, the Dome had more than 1,000 cracks and deficiencies. The project was awarded in November 2013 and, with Mr. Elias' management, we expect it to be completed before the Presidential Inauguration—on time and under budget.

Our subcommittee has come to depend on Carlos and his team for their exceptional customer service and reliability. In addition, Carlos has provided us with invaluable guidance and analysis throughout the years.

Carlos' retirement constitutes a profound loss for the institution. He will not be easily replaced and will be sorely missed. We wish him and his wife, Ana, all the best in this next phase of their lives.

HONORING 20 WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM OREGON FOR THEIR HONOR FLIGHT TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial today in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and

country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

This particular Honor Flight brings us 20 World War II veterans from 13 cities and towns in Oregon representing every branch of the military. Infantrymen, mechanics, operators, cutters, flight crew, pilots, seamen . . . each of these brave Americans deserves our everlasting thanks for their contributions to the war effort, and for their sacrifice on behalf of our liberty.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Robert Kukuska, Army; Arthur Lyons, Army; Walter Young, Army; Cecil Coleman, Army Air Force; Michael W. Foree, Army Air Force; Carl Maier, Army Air Force; Gordon Halsten, Coast Guard; Robert Bennett, Marines; Earl Giggers, Merchant Marines; Jack Alsup, Navy; Oral Fitts, Navy; John Hilderbrand, Navy; Robert Lazzarini, Navy; Virgil Luksan, Navy; James Smith, Navy; Howard Winegarden, Navy; Verl Middlesworth, Navy; Eugene Wellman, Navy Reserve; Wayne Harris, Navy Seabees; and Howard Graul, Navy Seabees.

These 20 heroes join the estimated 20,000–25,000 veterans who will travel to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the more than 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of the Bend Heroes Foundation and Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

RECOGNIZING BRECHBILL & HELMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darrell Brechbill, John Helman, and Linda Brechbill on the occasion of their 50th year in business and well-deserved retirements.

Brechbill and Helman Construction Company began in 1966 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and subsequently has grown to become a premier design-build commercial construction company serving a large portion of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Throughout their 50 years of business, Darrell, John, and Linda have remained actively involved in the projects and business, which has enabled the company to make many of its impressive contributions.

I would be remiss to not also highlight the great work these owners have done to positively impact their community. Both Darrell and John have served on the boards of local non-profit organizations, and their quality of work can be seen in the hotels, office buildings, restaurants, supermarkets, warehouses, and manufacturing buildings they built within their community.

I am honored to recognize and congratulate Darrell, John, and Linda on their 50 years of building up not only their business but also communities. They exemplify the true American Dream, building something from nothing, and I wish them the absolute best on their hard-earned retirements.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Nurses Week and to graciously thank the hardworking nurses residing and practicing in the First District of Iowa.

Every day, nurses provide compassionate, quality care to patients across the country. As the largest workforce in the healthcare sector, nurses are often the first line of defense in prevention and treatment to patients. I am confident nurses will continue to do an admirable job promoting safe public health practices among the communities in the First District. From schools to hospitals to long term care, these hardworking men and women provide compassionate care to those in need.

I urge my colleagues to continue to support nurses as they dedicate their lives to the well-being of others. Nurses deserve our recognition for their contributions to healthcare and I am proud to stand before you today and offer my thanks for their sacrifices.

HONORING MR. BILL "BULLDOG" CUNNINGHAM

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, longtime East Dallas constituent, Bill L. "Bulldog" Cunningham passed away on April 24, 2016, after a courageous fight with prostate cancer.

Born on May 3, 1921, Bulldog grew up in East Dallas. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1949 and was a star on the football team. He went to play football at Midwestern State University, but withdrew after one year to join the United States Marine Corps. During his service, he was wounded three times. And awarded the Purple Heart. After leaving Korea, he served the rest

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